



Amir Tsarfati
How Close Are We to the Rapture?
October 9, 2020

The title of the message this afternoon, if you're still awake, is “How Close Are We to the Rapture?” I love this because it's the shortest message I will ever give in my life. One slide: *Very*. We can move to the question and answers right now if you want. [Laughter] But for the sake of those of you who are struggling with the



concept of what is the Rapture all about, let me remind you that in the letter Paul wrote to the church in Thessaloniki—a church in northern Greece, it is probably the only one that I can think of that had no Jews in it, and, therefore, no Old Testament verses were ever quoted in in those epistles.

It's interesting because he said to them, **“But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep...”** (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18) This is the biblical term for those who died as believers. You see, we as believers, we don't die and enjoy that death that is so final and is so destructive. No, we just fall asleep. When your child falls asleep, all you do is take him and move him to bed. So, he falls asleep here, and he wakes up here. [Gestures hands upward from left to right] **“...lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.”** He says, “Listen! Any believer, even if he dies, he's not dead.” He's no longer...it's not like he's no longer going to live. And this is our hope. So why do you cry and mourn and lament as if you have no hope? **“¹⁴For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep**

in Jesus.” In other words, once Jesus rose from the dead, that's when death was basically defeated.

So, from now on, when a person dies as a believer, what happens to his soul? Whoosh! It goes to be with Jesus instantly. To be absent from the body is to be, what? [Audience: “To be present with the Lord.”] Which means the soul will and can be absent from the body when death comes. When Christ comes, He's not going to say to those souls, “Wait there. I'll just go and get these.” No. He says, “All those people that you're crying about, that you are lamenting over, that you are so sad for, they're going to come back. And guess what?” You're probably going to say, “Yeah, but it's only their souls. We miss their bodies also!” “Wait a minute. Their souls will come and unite with their bodies.” So, watch this, **“¹⁵For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that *we*”**...Say “*we*.” [Audience: “We.”] **“*we* who are alive...”** Are you alive? [Audience: “Yes!”] Check your pulse right now. [Laughter] **“¹⁵*we* who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means *precede* those who are asleep.”** In other words, if you attended a funeral of someone who died as a believer and the Rapture takes place two minutes later...hmmm...he will get there first. [Laughter]

Watch this: **“¹⁶For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God.”** Now, a lot of people wish it were today or yesterday because of the Feast of Trumpets. It is today, you know. Hello? Do you understand? It's Rosh Hashanah. Rosh Hashanah is not a biblical name. You need to understand. Rosh Hashanah is not in the Bible. The feast in the Bible that is mentioned is the Feast of Trumpets. That's the biblical name, Yom Teruah, Feast of Trumpeting. And it's interesting because...look, I believe with all of my heart that all the festivals of Israel from Leviticus 23 have been, are, and will be fulfilled in Israel for Israel, and it will affect, of course, the whole world. In

other words, when Passover was fulfilled, where was it fulfilled? In Jerusalem, of course. During a Jewish festival right in front of the eyes of the Jews.

When the Feast of Unleavened Bread—which is the sinless life of Jesus—was fulfilled, where was it? In Rome? Or in Patmos? Or somewhere in Spain, where there is, um, some... I don't know...miracles of a statue with some tears or whatever? Where was it fulfilled? In Jerusalem.

What about the Feast of Firstfruits? The resurrection of Jesus. Where did it happen? [Audience: “Jerusalem.”] The Feast of Weeks, which is Pentecost, where did it happen? [Audience: “Jerusalem.”] Hello? Where will Jesus come back to? [Audience: “Jerusalem.”] And where will Jesus be seen by His people as they lament and cry and repent? And where will He rule the world for 1,000 years from? [Audience: “Jerusalem.”]

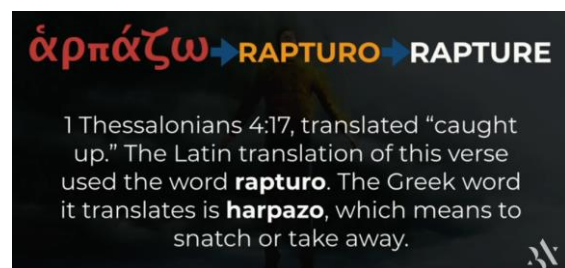
So, you see, there are the four festivals that were fulfilled in Jerusalem, and there are the three more that will be fulfilled in Jerusalem. Therefore, I think that the trumpet here is a trumpet of God in Heaven just for us. But the Feast of Trumpets will be fulfilled upon the *Second* Coming of Jesus Christ, and then Yom Kippur will be fulfilled right after when the Jews lament, and they will, of course, repent. Immediately, they will finally understand what the Feast of Tabernacles is all about. In Jerusalem. Of course, it will affect everybody. I think that the minute you start suspecting every year that it is going to happen at the Feast of Trumpets...first, you say, “I know the day.” Second, you're disappointed every year. Humpf! All right. Can we put an end to this one? Good.

“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.” The guy you just buried? Whoosh! And **“Then *we*...”** Say “*we*.” [Audience: “*We*.”] **“We who are alive and remain shall be *caught up* together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord”**

where? [Audience: **“in the air.”**] Now, it sounds like a cult. [Laughter] I'm telling you something, you repeat, and it sounds too fantastic. But that's not the case. You're just reading from the Scriptures. This is the Bible! This is the Word of God! [Amir speaking argumentatively,] “I can't believe we're going to fly up in the air.” Well, you don't have to believe. But it's your problem because the Bible says that we are going to be *caught up* together with those who died before in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Do you have a problem with that? [Audience: “No!”] Good.

So, the meeting place and the meeting point of us, the believers, with Jesus is not on Earth. The Second Coming of Jesus to Earth is not *for* the Church. It's *with* the Church. And so, **“¹⁷Thus”**—and watch this...now it's important—So, the minute we meet Jesus, He [comes] down; we [go] up; we meet halfway. What does the Bible say now? **“Thus,”** what? [Audience: **“¹⁷...we shall always be with the Lord.”**] Hmmm. Which means anywhere He goes, we go. He goes to the right hand of the Father, He goes to Heaven, we're going there. He returns back to earth...guess what? [Audience: “We go with Him.”] He reigns? [Audience: “We are with Him.”] Hello? **“¹⁸Therefore comfort one another with these words.”** And there's those, of course, who say, “How dare you! We need to go through the Tribulation. We need to see some carnage. The heads of all the believers will roll down the aisle. Therefore, comfort one another with these words.” [Laughter]

Now, how did we even get to the word “rapture”? Of course, we all know that in the Greek you have the word *harpazo*. In the Latin Bible, Vulgate, it was called *rapturo*, and therefore, in the English Bible, it is *rapture*. So, the word *rapture* is an English word. Don't look for it in the Greek



or the Hebrew. You know, some people say to me, “Well, the word *rapture* isn’t in the Bible!” Of course, you're reading English! Hello? The Bible was not written in English! Go to the Greek. And [for] the Old Testament, go to the Hebrew and see what it says. *Harpazo* is to be “caught up,” to be “taken away.”

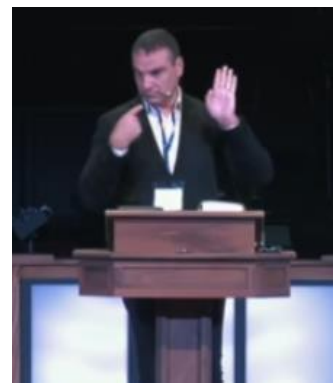
Another time the word *harpazo* was mentioned is when Philip was with the Ethiopian in the cart, and then they stopped and he baptized him, remember? And the Ethiopian just got saved, came out of the water, and he opened his eyes, and Philip is gone because Philip was raptured! Now you could be raptured upwards or sideways...[Laughter] Because Philip was still here, but he was—whoosh—taken away. And the Ethiopian said to himself, “This is too weird. I am not going to believe in this nonsense.” Did he say that? [Audience: “No!”] How come people who believe for 30, 40, 50 years say it's ridiculous, and the Ethiopian, who was a believer for 30 seconds, could accept it as the work of God? Unbelievable.

So, one of the most important events for us is also the most mysterious one. We *know* it will happen. We're *sure* it will happen. We *believe* it will happen. We have the *hope* it will happen. We are *happy* it is going to happen. We *pray* it will happen. We *wait* for it to happen. *But* not only we do not know the exact timing of the event, we actually have a very interesting declaration about it from Jesus Himself. And He said in the Olivet Discourse in **Matthew 24:36**; “³⁶**But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.**” Jesus basically says, “Look, I can tell you everything you want to know. Actually, you should have known exactly the day I came to Earth to Israel.” How do you know that? Because we're going to see in a few seconds, the Bible gave us the exact date. The Bible also tells us when He will come back because it's going to be right at the end of the seven-year Tribulation. But regarding that day when He will take us, *no one* knows the hour. And there is a reason for that.

The reason is very simple. He says, **Matthew 24:42-44**, “⁴²*Watch* therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house *had known* what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into.” And if you want to understand the meaning of this verse, come tomorrow to McKinney because we're going to talk about the ten virgins tomorrow. “**Therefore, you also be...**”—have I just created a big problem right now? I just realized that you cannot go to McKinney tomorrow unless you preregistered because it's a smaller church. [Laughter]—Okay. “**Therefore**”—listen up—“⁴⁴**Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming...**” What? When? “**...at an hour you do not accept...expect.**” Excuse me, “**expect.**” [Laughter]

So how can we know when it will happen? How can we know when the Rapture...? We do have in the *Bible anchors* that we can latch on to, we can see, we can hold on to. The anchors could be people, it could be events, it could be many different things. First of all, one of the major anchors is a *correct interpretation of Scripture*. We've got the Bible, and we've got the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit can never give *you* one interpretation [points left hand] and *you* the opposite interpretation [points right hand], and it will be okay and acceptable. *All* Scriptures are inspired by the Holy Spirit, thus they cannot contradict each other.

The Spirit is the Spirit of truth; thus, the Bible cannot give us false information. I'll give you an example, **2 Corinthians 5:1-8**. We'll look...we'll start with it. We see, “**For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God.**” I mean, *this* is a tent. [Hands point to chest.] We have a *building* from God! Go to 1 Corinthians, chapter 15 [and] then you [will] understand. Well, look at you. Put your picture from 25 years ago right here. [Laughter] You're dying! We are



dying! We're getting older, and we're dying. This is a body that is in a process of decay. Whether you like it or not, this...look, death has entered into the world when sin came to the world, and that's it. David said in **Psalm 51:5**, he said, “**...⁵in sin my mother conceived me.**”

And it's interesting because we see that we are being promised a building, not a tent! “**...a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens...**” It's very interesting because people...if you don't...if you misinterpret the Scriptures, you will think that, instantly, anyone who dies receives, what? That building. But it's not true, because watch this. “**...We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.**” And **Philippians 1:23** says, “**...having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better,**” he said. And in **Romans 8:23**, we're “**²³eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.**” In other words, when somebody dies, there is a point—unless the Rapture happens—where his soul and his body are separated. It's not immediately that he receives the new body. Do you understand that? Okay? However, to be able to enter into Heaven, you cannot enter with this body. You understand? Look at yourself, right now. This body will not enter into Heaven. It's a fallen body, and you must receive a new one. So, the Bible says that first the dead and then we are...we are going to change, and that corruption will wear incorruption. And we receive a new body, and the new body has absolutely no problem with gravity. Whoosh! We're gone. The new body has to be different. It's a building! It's not a tent. I don't say you... I mean, I'm looking at myself also! It's a tent right now. Come on, you try to stoop down to tie your shoelaces. UGH! It's a tent! In Heaven we will have a building.

So, we have to remember that we're eagerly waiting for the revelation of Jesus Christ Who will come, and then, of course, will take us who are alive and the dead in Christ will be resurrected as well. And we will then...those who died in Christ will be reunited with their body. The body is

buried right now in the cemetery of those who died and will be reunited, of course, in Heaven. It's beautiful! We have **“...the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.”** (Titus 2:13-14)

So, we've got first of all, the understanding that we must interpret the Scriptures correctly. You have to take more than one, you have to take *all* the Scriptures talking about the same thing and then up with your conclusion. Second, the Lord gave us *Bible prophecy*. Nearly a third of the Bible is speaking of future events because God wants you to know the future. **Isaiah 46:9-10** says, **“Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, ¹⁰Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure.’”** So, through Bible prophecy, you understand the timing of things because the Lord gave us specific timeframes for different things.

In **2 Peter 1:20-21** (NASB), it also says; **“...know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, ²¹for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”** This is not New King James. Hello? I recognize it from a mile. Let me... let me read to you—I'm not sure why—let me read to you **2 Peter 1:20-21** (NKJV). And he says this, **“knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, ²¹for prophecy *never* came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”** So, special people... and it's *written*. You don't have to go to a psychic somewhere. It's written! It's here!

Hebrews 1:1-2 (NASB) says, **“God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways...”** And let me read Hebrews also from my

favorite, which is the New King James Version, I will read. **“God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, ²has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds.”** You see, the same God who spoke to the fathers through the prophets has now spoken to us in Hebrews 1 through Jesus Christ. And you can see through this verse that the term “last days” began 2000 years ago. This is why the Bible says we live in the last hour of the last days.

Also, as we just heard so eloquently (from the previous speaker), *current events*, both political and spiritual, are a great anchor for us to understand where we are and when the Rapture is about to take place. Now, of course, make no mistake, the Rapture can take place any minute, *any* minute. If Paul was sure it is going to happen in his lifetime, and he wrote with such assurance that **“we who are alive and remain will be caught up,”** then that means that there is *nothing* necessary that has to happen for the Rapture to take place. But the fact of the matter is that the Rapture hasn't taken place yet. We're still here. So now we know what Paul could not know, that God had in His plan for Israel to be back in the land and for so many of those things that are pointing to the Tribulation to already begin while we are still here. Amazing.

First of all, thankfully, He decided that. Otherwise, we wouldn't be alive today. He waited for us to be born, He saved us, and we're here excited! Then He also shared with us Scriptures that are describing exactly what we're seeing today. When it comes to political things, we can see, of course, what we talked about earlier today: the alignment of certain countries in the Middle East like never before. If you think that Russia and Turkey and Iran were ever friends, kiss that thought goodbye! They *hate* each other. They never had any alliance like that in the history of planet Earth. Turkey wants to lead the Sunni world; Iran wants to lead the Shiite world. They hate each

other's guts! But for the first time ever in the history, they collaborate. It's beyond me. If it wasn't so described in Ezekiel 38, I would never even consider that to be a case.

You see that the peace deal that your president brokered just few days ago brings us to the point where we see why Sheba and Dedan, the merchants of Tarshish, and their young lions are protesting that invasion that is about to come saying, **“Have you come to take plunder? Have you gathered your army to take booty, to carry away silver and gold, to take away livestock and goods, to take great plunder?”** (Ezekiel 38:13) That implies that the invasion into Israel has nothing to do with Israeli presence, or Israeli occupation, or Jewish versus Islam. No! It has to do with stealing, taking plunder. It has to do with something we found, something we have, some wealth that we have acquired that now they want to take.

And over the last few years, Israel found trillions of cubic feet of natural gas while Russia is *desperately* looking for it. Russia invested \$60 billion in a gas pipe into Western Europe to Germany. Ninety-seven percent of it was completed, and Donald Trump stopped it. [Applause] Don't tell me that the Russians want Trump to be president! They cannot wait for him to leave the Oval Office. They colluded with the Germans behind the back of NATO and behind the back of the Americans. And they started working behind the back of everyone on a deal that would make Putin—he's already the richest man in the world I believe—even more rich. And one senator, one senator from this state stopped it: Ted Cruz. [Applause] And not only that, America is saying to the Europeans, “We can get you other gas which is even cheaper if you just buy the one that Israel just found.” And the Russians are "GRRRR..." They want to kill us! And we are now developing the East Mediterranean pipe from Israel towards Cyprus to Greece to Italy, to Western Europe. Ha! Ha!

The Iranian and the Turkish currency—whoosh—plunged over the last couple months. Listen! To the lowest *ever*. Two hundred seventy-one thousand Iranian rials for one US dollar. Seven point six Turkish liras for one US dollar. When Erdogan took position a few years ago, it was three point something. So, you see, the Turks are trying to find gas, but they can't find it. And it drives them crazy that Israel finds it...Cyprus finds it...Greece finds it...they can't find it! So, they send a research vessel escorted with submarines and helicopters and F-16s, and it's moving anywhere they want...they can't find it. That research vessel broke! [Laughter] Now they sent it back home. They're angry!

If that's not enough, the coalition of Ezekiel—which is ready—as we already heard earlier today. We know this: **“...that in the last days perilous times will come: ²For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!” (2 Timothy 3:1-5)**

And if that's not enough, look what God is doing with Israel! You know, *you* might take it for granted that the Jews are back in their land, but your grandparents would only dream of it. My grandparents were from Poland. They did not want to come to Israel in the early 1920s. There was...are you kidding me? Europe was much better. They flourished in Europe. Here in Israel, there was just desert and malaria. Speaking of malaria, why do you think in Africa COVID almost does not exist? Yeah, they take hydroxychloroquine, I mean, like candies everywhere. [Applause]

I want you to know that the Lord said in Deuteronomy through Moses, He says; **“I will gather you again from all the nations where the Lord your God has scattered you. If any of**

you are driven out to the farthest parts under heaven, from there the Lord your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you.” (Deuteronomy 30:3b-4) Isaiah 66 describes the moment David Ben-Gurion had to establish the State of Israel. You know, we had literally an hour to decide: statehood or no statehood. We signed the Declaration of Independence before we had it. We signed it on one piece of paper, and later on we sewed it to the Declaration of Independence. **“Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Shall the earth be made to give birth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion...”** Don't let people say that "Zionism" is a bad word. **“As soon as,”** what? **“Zion was in labor...”** If you believe that Israel is the place for the Jewish people, you're Zionists! You're probably saying, “What are you talking about, Willis?” [Laughter] Zionism is basically your conviction that Israel is the homeland of the Jewish people. That's all. **“For as soon as Zion was in labor, She gave birth to her children.” (Isaiah 66:8)**

In **Jeremiah 31:35-36**, it says—despite what people say that “Israel in this chapter in history that will pass,” I want to tell you something—**“³⁵Thus says the Lord, Who gives the sun for a light by day, The ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night, Who disturbs the sea, And its waves roar (The Lord of hosts is His name): ³⁶If those ordinances depart From before Me, says the Lord,”** Say “then” [Audience: “Then.”] Now, say it with an attitude of “THEN!” [Audience: THEN!] **“THEN the seed of Israel shall also cease from being a nation before Me forever.”** In other words, when you walk outside and there is no sun, there's no moon, no stars; they're gone! Then Israel is no longer a nation before God. By the way, it's going to happen. You know when? When the Lord will make the New Heavens and New Earth and New Jerusalem. There will be no more need for the sun, the moon, and the stars because Jesus will be the Menorah that shines the light. There will be no more need for a temple, and Israel is no longer

Israel. Anyone who dwells there is the people of God, the children of God! That's it! No more distinction between Jews...you understand? It's going to happen one day. But until the eternity in the New Heavens and New Earth and New Jerusalem, Israel is still a nation that stands before God and *no one* can destroy them, not even the Antichrist. You can try. It won't work. Ask the Fuhrer.

Daniel's vision is another anchor. Daniel's vision. **“I watched till thrones were put in place, And the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, And the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, Its wheels a burning fire; ¹⁰A fiery stream issued And came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, And the books were opened. ¹¹I watched then because of the sound of the pompous words which”—**that “little horn” that Pastor Barry talked about—**“was speaking; I watched till the beast was slain...” (Daniel 7:9-11a)** Ladies and gentlemen, everything we know about the Tribulation has already been *foretold* in the Old Testament.

In **Daniel 9:24-26**, the classic 70 Weeks vision. The 70 Weeks are not the history of the world; they're the history of *Israel*. **“Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city ...”** he said. So, you have to understand folks, he said, **“²⁵Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince—will enter into the city—There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times. And *after* the sixty-two weeks”—**there was seven and sixty-two, we all know—**“Messiah shall be cut off.”**

And you all know...Sir Robert Anderson...who was, by the way, an officer in Scotland Yard. Just so you know, he wrote a book, *The Coming Prince*. He managed...he was a very smart

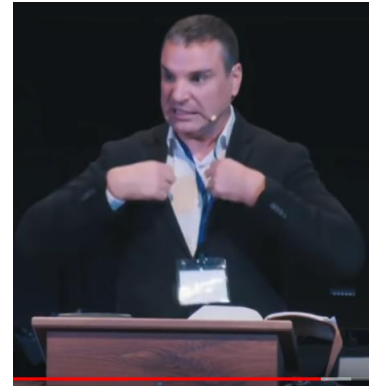
guy. Now, watch this. He said that, in the Bible, 70 weeks are 70 units of seven years. A year in the Old Testament is 360 days. So, we know exactly...we know exactly when Jesus had to have entered into Jerusalem. We know the day. How do we know the day? Because he said that from the moment the command to rebuild Jerusalem was given, count what? Seven and 62 weeks. Together is, what? Sixty-nine weeks: $69 \times 7 \times 360$ is 173,880 days. Which brings you to April 6, 32AD. Boom! It's the Sunday before Passover, and Jesus entered Jerusalem that day.

See, when God wants us to know a day, He is going to give us the day. But when God wants you *not* to know a day, He's going to tell you, "No one knows the day and the hour." And someone says, "I believe it's Rosh Hashanah." Well, the Bible says no one knows, so no one knows. You know how many YouTube videos there are out there that tell you exactly the day of the Rapture? It's crazy. And all of them are ridiculous because they try to know Hebrew. They just don't know Hebrew, and it's crazy.

Of course, Jesus also said about the fig tree generation: **"Learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. ³³So you also, when you see all these things..." (Matthew 24:32-34a)** Who is that fig tree that two chapters earlier was Israel? Of course, it's Israel right now, and that fig tree is the rebirth of Israel from that death of 2000 years and came back to life. And you know that rebirth of Israel is the *most* important end-time sign of all. And He says, **"...you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors! Assuredly, I say to you, this generation..." (Matthew 24:33-34)**

This generation... Say "*My generation*" [Audience: *My generation.*] Because a generation is the longevity of people from the moment of conception to their death, including the nine months of swimming lessons in the womb. Ladies and gentlemen, all of you are alive you belong to the

same generation, whether you are a 2-year-old or a 90-year-old right now, this is a generation. And all of you live to see, today, that Israel is back in the land. A Jew from the tribe of Judah is standing right in front of you right now, speaking with broken English and with a tent. [Laughter] Ladies and gentlemen, you see those things: **“Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.”**



"A Jew...right in front of you, speaking in broken English and with a tent!"

We've got also Ezekiel's prophesy. We touched on it before, Ezekiel 36, how the *land* was healed. Then **Ezekiel 37:12-14**, how the *people* were saved from Europe and were brought by the Lord to their land. And you can see, **“...Behold, O My people...”** verses 12 to 14, **“I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of...”** Palestine? Into the land of? Oh, wow, **“Israel.”** **“Then you shall know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves. I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, And I will place you in...”** the Palestinians' own land. [Audience: No.] Oh, it's the Jewish people's own land... **“your own land.”** “Hmmm. How dare you say that! That's not social justice.” Look, **“Then you shall know...”** What's the purpose of God bringing the Jews back? What's the purpose of God saving them? What's the purpose of Him performing that and not any other person...so, what? **“Then you shall know that I, the Lord,”** what? **“I have spoken it and performed it.”** “It's Me.” God said, “No one else.” And of course, in Ezekiel 38, we speak of the coming invasion and in Ezekiel 39.

So, *when will the Rapture NOT happen?* By the way of elimination, you probably will guess when it will. First of all, it will not happen when you think it will happen. Again, **“Therefore**

you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.” (Matthew 24:44) It will NOT happen on the day that people say it will. In **1 Thessalonians 5:1-2**, we read it, “...concerning the times and the seasons, therefore, you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.” Now of course, it says that it's not a thief in the night for us in a sense that we do not live in the darkness, in the night. But it is going to surprise Earth dwellers. Two are going to be in the field...whoosh! One is taken and one is left. Two are grinding the wheat...whoosh! One is taken and one is left. There's not going to be a commercial on TV: “Rapture! Tomorrow 9:00 a.m.” [Snaps fingers] It's going to happen!

It will not happen during or after the Tribulation. So...if you believe that the Tribulation has already begun...hmmm...you have been left behind. The Bible says, “**For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,**” in **1 Thessalonians 5:9**. And you can see, **1 Thessalonians 5:11**, “**Therefore,**” what? “**...comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.**” Don't sell them destruction. Don't sell them annihilation. Don't sell them the Antichrist. That's not for you! You should comfort one another and edify each other.

First Thessalonians 1:10—look what he says—“**to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us,**” what? “*from the wrath to come.*” Not *through* the wrath to come. If that's not enough, **Revelation 3:10** to the Church of Philadelphia; “**I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.**” This is why Pastor Barry just read that the Antichrist in Chapter 13 will blaspheme not only God and His tabernacle but also the dwellers of heaven! Hello? We won't be here. There are the Earth dwellers during the Tribulation, and there are Heaven dwellers in the Tribulation.

The Rapture will not happen after the Antichrist is revealed, as we already know, because **2 Thessalonians 2:3,7-8** says, “³**Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed.***” And then he moves on and says, “⁷**For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is,**” what? “**...taken out of the way.**” Now, remember how we say “then”? “*Then!*” Say that again. [Audience: *Then!*] “***Then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.***”

Now, *will the Rapture trigger the Tribulation?* Maybe. Well, we don't know. Do you care? I see...people write books about it. So, what do I care? All I care is that I'm out of here. I'm checking out. Will the hotel be full after I'm done? Who cares? Will the hotel serve great food once I checked out? Who cares! They don't serve any food right now [during the pandemic]! [Laughter]

Remember, Daniel says that he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week. So, we know that the Tribulation will be the last week of those 70 weeks. It's not for us; it's for Israel. It's about Israel. It's the description of the whole history of Israel. Do you understand that? So for us, “Adios, amigos.” That's why, by the way, one of the names of the Tribulation is, what? “Jacob's Trouble.”

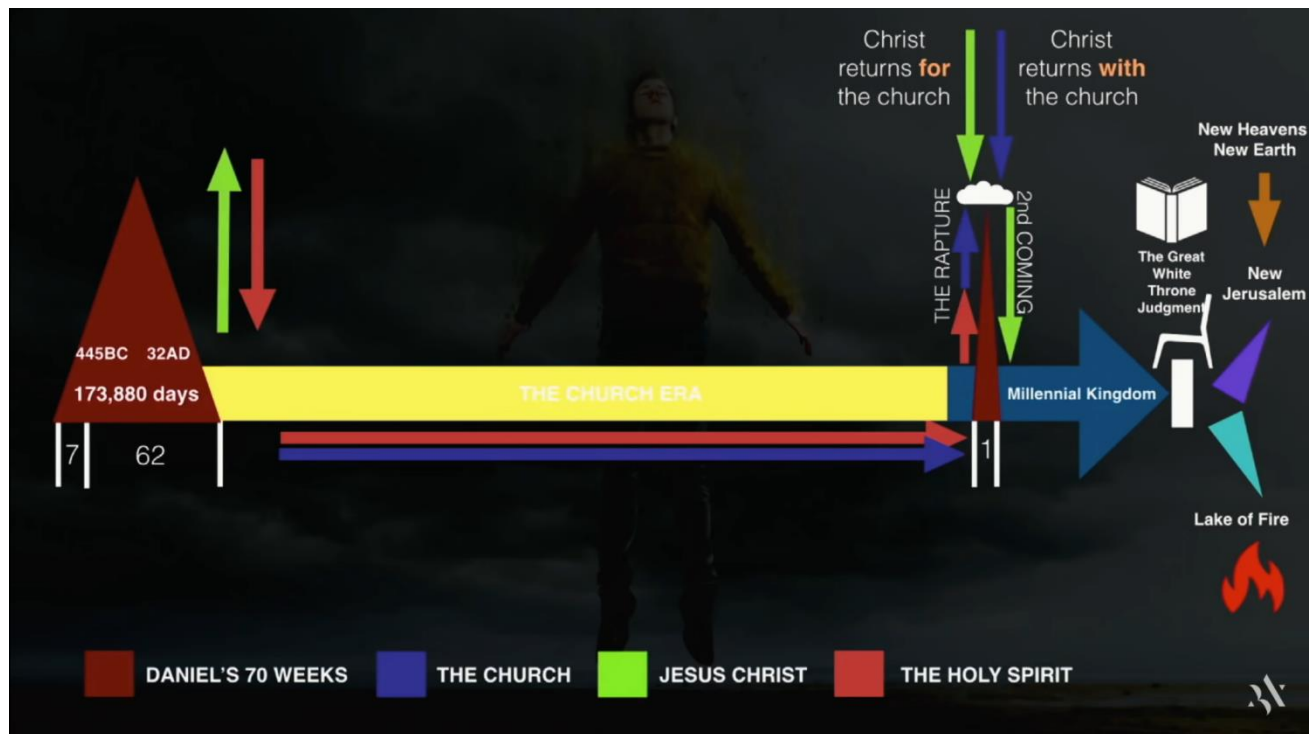
Will there be a gap between the Rapture and the Tribulation? I want you to say, “Who cares?” [Audience: Who cares?] [Laughter] Somebody just wrote a book about it, and I'm like, “A gap?” Okay, let's say there is a gap...but? [Audience: *Who cares?*] [Laughter]

Look, what I care about is what I see right now in the church, where I see pastors saying that the fig tree is not Israel; where I see the pastors saying that **Genesis 12:3** is not about Israel. “I

will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you.” Where I see the pastors [who] are saying that there is no Rapture. *That's* what I care about because *right now*, while we're still *here*, that deception is going on. Remember; **“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”** (2 Timothy 3:16-17) And it also says, **“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”** (John 14:26) And if Jesus said in Matthew 22 that the fig tree is Israel, speaking of Israel...describing the fig, then why would in Matthew 24, it's not Israel? And what's the point of mentioning a fig tree if it's just a tree?

The Rapture will happen and has to happen before the Tribulation. And we know that it is God's way of doing things. He removes the righteous before He pours His judgment upon the unrighteous as He did in **Genesis 19:12-14**, **“...^{12b}take them out of this place! ¹³For we will destroy this place, because the outcry against them has grown great before the face of the Lord, and the Lord has sent us to destroy it. So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law who had married his daughters and said, ‘Get up, get out of this place; for the Lord will destroy this city!’”** We see that in Genesis 19. We also know how Noah was lifted up as the flood covered the earth.

Take a look at this chart. So, this is a picture of what the Bible, through the prophet Daniel and all the other prophets, is talking about what the end times will look like. You can clearly see that Daniel's 70 weeks are separated—seven and 62 have happened already at the very beginning before the church was born and Jesus, of course, came to the land of Israel. Then upon His departure, He sent the Holy Spirit, and the Church Age thus began. But you see, we're right now



at the very end. And right after the Rapture, we can see, starts the 70th week—that last week—that one week that is left to be fulfilled. You can see as we go up, we go up and Christ returns down, and we meet Him in *that* cloud. *That* cloud, this particular one. [Laughter] Christ, seven years later, at the end of that last week, returns *with* the church in His Second Coming to establish the Millennial Kingdom. At the end of the Millennial Kingdom, we're going to come to the point where the Great White Throne Judgment is going to happen. The books will be opened, and anyone who is not written in the Lamb's Book of Life goes down to the Lake of Fire, and of course, the believers will be in the New Jerusalem as the New Heavens, New Earth, and New Jerusalem are coming down. And you can clearly see that this is a beautiful picture. And we are, where? We are at the very, very, very edge before the Tribulation begins. Look, we don't know when the Rapture is going to happen, but we know that the Tribulation is around the corner. We just heard the whole message about it. Hello?

So, we understand...to summarize this whole thing...we understand...how close are we to the Rapture? [Audience: Very close!] Very, very, very! Because we see the convergence of so many prophecies right now. You know that in your lifetime more prophecies have been fulfilled than any other generation since the time of Jesus Christ? How can we seeing all these convergences...?

“Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.” (1 John 2:18)

“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, ¹²teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, ¹³looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing...” “Appearing,” by the way, is when He comes like that! [snaps fingers] That's not His Second Coming when He stays. He appears in the sky...“the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.” (Titus 2:11-14)

Father, we thank You so much for this blessed hope. We thank You that you have prepared Your people for *all* good works, that You have indeed purified and redeemed us from every lawless deed. And we are Your own special people. We thank You, Father, that You gave us anchors of Scripture and current events. We see political and spiritual developments around the world. We see all You spoke through the prophets a long time ago and we see that great convergence and we are *so* ready to be out of here. We're so ready. Lord, we are not going to try and rebuke You for being late because You're never late. You are long suffering, not willing that any should perish, but all should come to the knowledge of Jesus.

But we also know, Father, that the time will come, and the door will be closed. In an unexpected moment, boom! We will be out of here. Father, You told us just to be ready, to be sober, and to be watchful. That's what we want to do. And conferences like this and in teachings like this and in gatherings of the saints, of the watchmen from all over the world, we want to be ready. We want to be watchful. We want to be sober. We want...Father, we don't know the day, we don't know the hour, we have no clue, but who cares? If we're ready, any minute You take us, we are going to be out of here. We *bless* Your Name. We thank You. We bless You. We do all of that in the *matchless*, in the most beautiful Name of the Holy One of Israel, Yeshua, the Lamb of God, the Prince of Peace, The Lord of Lords, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, Immanuel. In the Name of Jesus, we pray. And all of God's people say, Amen. "Amen."

Scripture references are from New King James Version, unless otherwise noted. Emphasis added.